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R. I. BRAUBIEN
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ROUTINE

IMMEDIATE: LOND
ROUTINE: INFO CITE DIR 75476

PEBAND

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRIEF [redacted] (NOFORN IN SLAFTS)

1. ALGERIA-MOROCCO: MOROCCO SEEMS INTENT ON REASSERTING ITS PRESENCE IN BORDER AREA BETWEEN TINDOUF AND COLOMB-BECHAR CLAIMED BY BOTH RABAT AND ALGIERS, ALTHOUGH BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY WENT TO AVOID ALL-OUT WAR.

//ACCORDING TO GEN KETTANI, KING HASSAN'S PERSONAL MILIT ADVISER, ADDITIONAL MOROCCAN TROOPS ARE MOVING TOWARD POSITIONS WHICH WERE HELD BY ALGERIANS DURING CLASHES ON 8 OCT. KETTANI REPORTEDLY ASSERTED ON 10 OCT, "WE WILL THROW THEM OUT, AND WE WILL FIGHT ALGERIANS MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN FRENCH EVER DID."//

BEN BELLA HAS ISOLATED BERBER DISSIDENTS IN THE KABYLIE, BUT HE DOES NOT CONTROL COUNTRYSIDE THERE. MOREOVER, EVEN BEFORE CLASHES WITH MOROCCO, BERBER REVOLT HAD AGGRAVATED HIS DIFFICULTIES

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WITH MILIT. HE IS UNLIKELY TO WANT EXTENSIVE ACTION ALONG MOROCCAN BORDER WHILE HIS CONTROL OVER MILIT IS SO SHAKY.

FOR HIS PART, HASSAN'S MORE ASSERTIVE POSTURE SUGGESTS THAT HE IS WILLING TO EXPLOIT DIFFICULTIES OF BEN BELLA, HIS NATURAL RIVAL, IN UNDERMINING LATTER'S INTERNAL POSITION. HIS BELLIGERENCY HAS ALSO STRENGTHENED HIS OWN POSITION INSIDE MOROCCO. HE HAS LITTLE TO GAIN, HOWEVER, FROM BEING BRANDED AN AGGRESSOR, AND IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD SEEK A DECISIVE CONFRONTATION DELIBERATELY.

2. COMMUNIST CHINA - ALGERIAN. COMMUNIST CHINA HAS OFFERED ALGERIA A $50 MILLION LONG-TERM INTEREST-FREE CREDIT FOR AS YET UNDISCLOSED USES. SINCE 1960 CHINESE HAVE MADE GIFTS TO ALGERIANS TOTALLING AT LEAST $13.5 MILLION TO SUPPORT ALGERIAN NATIONALIST MILIT ACTIVITY. UNABLE TO MATCH IN SCOPE USSR'S RECENT $100 MILLION CREDIT TO ALGERIA, PEIPING MAY WELL HAVE INCLUDED SOME CASH IN ITS NEW OFFER--IT HAS IN SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. USSR HAS AVOIDED SUCH A PRACTICE IN ITS AID PROGRAMS. SOME INDICATIONS CHICOMS INTERESTED IN ALGERIAN PETROLEUM.

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3. USSR-ALGERIA: NO MILIT AID AGREEMENT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY ALGERIA OR THE USSR BUT SOME ARRANGEMENT FOR MATERIEL MAY HAVE BEEN MADE DURING DEF MIN H BOUMEDIENNE'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW. SOME 450 ALGERIANS ARE NOW RECEIVING MILIT TRAINING IN SOVIET BLOC AND MOSCOW MAY REGARD PRESENT IMPROVED STATE OF RELATIONS AS PROVIDING A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN SUPPLYING ALGERIA WITH MODERN EQUIPMENT.

4. SOMALI REPUBLIC - USSR: //SOMALI GOVT ON 10 OCT DECIDED TO ACCEPT A $28 MILLION SOVIET OFFER OF MILIT ASSISTANCE, ACCORDING TO A HIGH SOMALI OFFICIAL, AND HOPES THIS WILL NOT HURT PROSPECTS FOR RECEIVING SUCH AID FROM THE WEST.

JUST BEFORE MEETING AT WHICH THIS DECISION WAS MADE, PRIMIN ABDIRASCID SAID THAT HIS GOVT WOULD USE SOVIET INSTRUCTORS FOR A SHORT WHILE AND WOULD DEPEND ON EGYPT FOR MAJOR TRAINING AND TECHNICIAL ADVICE. ABDIRASCID SAID THAT HE HAD REJECTED CHINESE ASSISTANCE.

THE PRIMIN EXPRESSED HOPE THAT WEST WOULD CONDUCT A MAJOR MILIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE BLOC. DESPITE

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SOMALI HOPES, GERMAN AND ITALIAN MILIT. AID PLANS ARE LIKELY TO BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. ROME OFFICIALS RECENTLY TOLD VISITING SOMALI PRES THAT ANY DEAL WITH SOVIETS WOULD COMPROMISE SOMALIA'S CHANCES OF SECURING SIGNIFICANT WESTERN MILIT ASSISTANCE, AND THAT ITALY, WHICH HAD TENTATIVELY APPROVED A $2 MILLION THREE-YEAR PROGRAM, WOULD TAKE SUCH A SOMALI DECISION "SERIOUSLY." BONN IS KNOWN TO BE OPPOSED TO EXTENDING AID IF MOGADISCIO ACCEPTS ANY COMMUNIST MILITARY ASSISTANCE.//

5. CONGO: ADOULA GOVT IS FACING GROWING OPPOSITION FROM CONGOLESE LABOR LEADERS.

THE LEADERS OF FOUR UNIONS, INCLUDING THREE LARGEST, STATE THAT THEY WILL NOT SIT ON PLANNED SPECIAL COMMISSION TO DRAFT A NEW CONGO CONSTITUTION UNLESS GOVT IS CHANGED. UNIONS ARE APPARENTLY WILLING THAT PRES KASAVUBU OR PREMIER ADOULA, OR BOTH, REMAIN, IF THE REST OF CABINET IS DISMISSED.

USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTS THAT UNIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERING A GENERAL STRIKE TO ENFORCE THEIR DEMANDS, BUT NOTES THAT THEIR ATTITUDES ARE HARDENING. THE UNIONS ARE DEMONSTRATING GREATER UNITY

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AND SOURCE BELIEVES THAT SITUATION COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY. LABOR LEADERS HAVE SAID THEIR RANK AND FILE IS AS FED UP WITH THE GOVT AS IT WAS WITH PARLIAMENT, WHICH KASAVUBU DISMISSED ON 29 SPET.

FRUSTRATED BY RAMPANT INFLATION, FOOD SHORTAGES, AND UNEMPLOYMENT, UNIONS HAVE LONG CALLED FOR ECON REFORMS AND REMOVAL OF HIGH LIVING, INCOMPETENT AND CORRUP CABINET MINISTERS. A GENERAL STRIKE OVER CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES WAS ONLY NARROWLY AVERTED IN LATE AUGUST, AND A NATIONWIDE STRIKE OF TEACHERS OVER NONPAYMENT OF SALARIES BEGAN ON 7 OCT (CONF)

6. KENYA: TENSIONS HAS INCREASED AS CONSEQUENCE OF THE FAILURE OF LONDON CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS TO REACH AGREEMENT DURING THEIR FIRST TWO WEEKS.

THE KENYAN OPPOSITION PARTY SUSPECTS THAT WITHIN A FEW DAYS BRITAIN WILL IMPOSE A SOLUTION THAT WILL WEAKEN THE POSITION OF THE MINORITY TRIBES. THEY BELIEVE THAT COLONIAL SECRETARY SANDYS WILL MEET PRIME MINISTER KENYATTA'S DEMANDS TO EASE PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION AND TO GRANT MORE AUTHORITY OVER POLICE AND CIVIL AUTHORITY TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

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ALARMED OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS IN NAIROBI RESOLVED ON 9 OCT TO FORM THEIR REGIONS INTO A SEPARATE STATE, BUT HAVE SINCE SUSPENDED ACTION UNDER PRESSURE FROM PARTY LEADERS IN LONDON. ALTHOUGH THEY PROBABLY LACK THE STRENGTH TO ACTUALLY SECEDE, THEIR LEADERS HOPE THE THREAT WILL GAIN THEM LAST MINUTE CONCESSIONS.

BRITISH AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONARY SECURITY MEASURES AND THE KENYA GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT IT CAN HANDLE ANY DISTURBANCES. SPECIAL POLICE HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN THE POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE RIFT VALLEY REGION AND AFRICAN TROOPS ARE ON ALERT. (CONF)

7. IRAQ: //REPORTS PERSIST OF COUP PLOTTING BY ANTI-BAATH POLIT AND MILIT ELEMENTS. THE GOVT REMAINS ALERT AND PROBABLY HAS PENETRATED THE POLITICAL GROUPINGS, WHOSE ACTIVITIES IT HAS SEVERELY HARASSED AND RESTRICTED. MILITARY DISSIDENTS MAY HAVE GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION, BUT THEIR CAPABILITIES HAVE BEEN WEAKENED BY THE INFUSION OF BAATH PARTY MEMBERS INTO THE OFFICER CORPS.//

END OF MESSAGE

James Kentrakis

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